

Editorial

E Coosh EEWA:

(The way it is)

Letters to the Editor



"Spilyay Speaks"



When a board of directors is selected for any organization, they look for the best people who can handle the job well. A bank for instance, all its shareholders want the person in there who is responsible, dependable and can manage financial affairs with out any difficulty. A group of business people for the protection and promotion of business interests for its shareholders.

We here in Warm Springs have valuable assets that we should be protective of. After all its our future and our destiny to protect our natural resources for the best interest for all enrolled tribal members. We've

got to be on our toes and not lose any of our valuable rights we have. Out there in this cruel world there is always someone trying to find a loop hole where they can break our treaties we have with the U.S. Government. When the treaties were signed there were things that were clearly spelled out of what was to be an agreement on both parties to that effect of our rights. Today there are people who can't understand those rights and are trying to say that the treaties are out dated.

The reason I mention our rights is because it's time once again to select tribal council members from each district to up-hold our business affairs and not get us into any problem areas. Again, I say, we need our best people in there, not because it's so and so's turn to serve because he lives in a certain district. We need our best people in there to protect and preserve what little we have left today.

Let's not take selecting our Councilmen as a joke, because it will be on their shoulders to see that we retain everything that is rightfully ours. So folks, when it comes to the time to cast your ballots, remember your future, your kid's future depends on the outcome and decision making on councilmen. Make your selection carefully and be sure and vote. Election day, April 3rd.

Jewell Van Pelt Memorial Dinner
April 15, 1989
 Agency Longhouse

Agency District representatives support apportionment

(Editor's note: The apportionment petition has been validated. The petition has been thoroughly and comprehensively examined by the Solicitor's Office for propriety. Based on the information received by spokesperson Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatam from the Portland Area Office and Warm Springs Superintendent, this statement is being released to the people.)

To the membership of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon,

We, the Agency District representatives on the current Tribal Council, initiated and supported the latest successfully circulated petition on the apportionment article (the section dealing with how we select our Tribal Council representatives) in our Tribal Constitution and By-Laws. We want to announce through this statement our planned activities leading up to the upcoming Secretarial Election on the matter.

We gathered over 600 signatures in support of the proposition stated in the petition which required the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America to see that an election is carried out on behalf of the petitioners. Several attempts were made to place this matter on the Tribal Council table. A slight margin kept it off. Therefore, to get this matter before the people, a petition had to be circulated.

The petition proposition is to consolidate from three voting dis-

tricts to two and to establish one at-large representative. The Agency and Simnasho districts will remain the same except that one elected member will be added to each. The at-large representative, it is proposed, will be determined by the collective vote of each district. As per the Tribal Election Ordinance, tribal members may register to vote in the district of their preference.

We want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who assisted us by gathering signatures and to those of you who signed the petition. We know many of you expressed special appreciation for being contacted. Your participation with us will allow our community to discuss and, through its eligible voters, decide on this important issue.

Another reason we have prepared this statement is to let you know that we will be conducting a voter registration campaign and that your vote is important. We want as many people as possible to express their mind by voting. We will need volunteers to assist in this effort. Contact any of us as soon as possible if you want to help.

Please remember this is not a tribal election but a federal secretarial election and rules specific to this type of election apply and are contained in the Federal Code of Regulations. In this case, a Secretarial Election applies because we are asking for a modification to our Tribal Constitution and By-

Laws. In a Secretarial Election, you must register each time one is held, be 18 years of age, and be enrolled in the Tribe to be eligible to vote.

Soon, you will be receiving in the mail from an appointed election board, information and instructions about forms to be completed and returned, when the election will be held and where to vote. It is important that you complete this activity because it is the filing of this information that places your name on to the voter list and makes you eligible to vote.

We believe as much eye-to-eye contact in conjunction with this election as possible is important. With that in mind, we will be asking clan heads and heads of households to host meetings so that we can respond to any questions. During these meetings we will have graphic information and registration material available. We urge you, as well, to contact us requesting our presence, individually or otherwise.

Our form of Government, in our case a representative one, allows each of us the freedom of expression and the right without any form of intimidation to freely cast a vote in support of our beliefs. Various forms of intimidation, scare tactics and smear campaigning to keep you from voting or to vote a certain way may be attempted by some who do not want this matter presented or discussed. Threatening your job, threatening black-balling you from employment,

and his medication was given sporadically or not at all.

—When the Group Home was informed of my boy's toothache, no action was taken for five days, infection had set in by then.

—My niece started taking drugs while in the Group Home, my son has freer access to drugs there. I want him out.

—My boy has been subjected to put-downs concerning himself and our family and ridiculed by staff members. I don't want him learning from these types of people.

I was told first and foremost that I should get a job and housing. My job schedule conflicted with many community events and meetings I would have liked to attend. There isn't a job I know of that a new employee tells his employers what days off he demands or dictates what hours he wants, though Lord knows, my employers has done what can be reasonably expected to comply with my needs. My son's counselor thinks I can dictate hours to suit her. Then, she nervily asks me, "What's more important, your son or your job?" I thought her concern was supposed to be with her clients and not just a paycheck. If they're so overloaded, shouldn't they find a way to hire more help?

The court has cited me for contempt for missing family counseling sessions; yet I have witnesses that have known when I did show up for appointments, they had been cancelled because the counselor had not shown up or the session had been rescheduled for a different day. I once came in for a "regular appointment" only to discover that it had been changed to the previous day, without notice to me.

Group Home visiting days are Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, which I attend regularly (6:30 to 7:30). Yet, if I have a meeting with the Group Home, it is almost always scheduled on a day other than those days. Every trip I make involves 33 miles of car time and gas usage. I once had to drive this distance three times in one day, only to have each meeting cancelled. I don't have a car right now, but I do pay

for the gas friends use to come after me.

By the counselor's own admission, many of the children placed in the Group Home are without visitors or family seeing them for weeks or months at a time, and the runaway rate is very high. I have seen my son almost everyday since he's been in the Group Home. He hasn't been a runaway and complies as much as he can. Yet, the children placed there after my son was put in and those determined as "regular" runaways, have been let out. Do you have to have a certain last name or "know somebody" to have a child released from the Group Home? The Group Home seems to bob off its nose to spite its face, at times.

The children there don't have a voice because their comments and complaints are easily squelched by the adults there. In fact, the staff uses its power of education and double-talk to smooth things over. When my son speaks out for himself, he is labeled "aggressive" and when he is quiet, again he is labeled as "unable to express his feelings." Now that some adults are listening

and trying to correct this situation, the Group Home must respond. In fact, it might be an alternative to replace the Group Home with shelter and foster homes.

My son is neither overly quiet or extremely popular, just an average teen. I believe my son is coping well, given the fact that he hasn't been away from family life before and thrown into a strange environment.

Let me add here that he had been thrown into our Warm Springs jail for eight hours because he was angry and fed up with the treatment he and his family have endured for almost three months. Why should my boy be subjected to people such as the ones he's met through this experience when life is hard enough just being a teen? We're straightening out our lives and could do it even better without the Group Home's and Court's interference.

Please release my child.

Sincerely,
 Clarice F. Crane
 Warm Springs, Oregon

Thanks for sharing the evening

To the Editor,

This is a letter to thank the Wasco community members for their participation in the "welcome back" dinner, held March 1, for Ken Smith as he accepted the Chief Executive Officer and Secretary/Treasurer position with the Tribe.

The dinner was an open invitation for all people of the whole community of Warm Springs and was sponsored by the Wasco people. The only item requested from the Tribe was the use of the Agency Longhouse for three or four hours.

All the food, which completely filled up 15 tables, was donated by the Wasco people. The tables overflowed with traditional roots, fish and meat, dumplings, homemade pies, breads and cakes, canned fruit, various salads and just about everything else—it was great to see

all the people bring in what they could. The tables were fit for a feast—which is exactly what we had.

It was a very heart felt evening, knowing our people could have a get together, not because we had to, but because we wanted to. Listening to Ken give us the words he did about the goals for our Tribes and just sharing information with us, was very nice. Everyone enjoyed themselves, sharing the cooking, preparing food, even the cleaning, everything was donated from the heart, even the gift for Kenny.

Again, thank you for helping and coming to share the evening. These are the kinds of times we all need to share more often.

God bless you all.

A tribal member,
 Daisy M. Ike

us all in the long run. Some reasons for the way we feel in support of this proposition are:

1. It will allow every qualified individual an opportunity to serve on the Tribal Council.

2. Two districts will reflect a good and equitable balance of power.

3. Will allow treaty ancestors the opportunity to be totally involved in determining who represents them on the Tribal Council.

4. Will allow the Tribal Council leadership to represent the confidence of a majority vote of the people.

5. Two large districts will be a good check and balance system.

6. We have been placed in a role of leadership and what we are suggesting is totally objective on our part, reasonable, honorable, because we are doing our level best for our community.

Should you have further questions on this proposition, please feel free to contact any of us. We want to do everything possible to help you make an informed decision.

We are looking forward to your participation and vote in the upcoming election which will be announced by the election board and Superintendent, Bernard Topash, who will act as the board's chairman.

- Nelson Wallulatam
Wasco Chief
- Zane Jackson
Agency District Representative
- Bruce "Mickey" Brunoe
Agency District Representative
- Rita Squiemphen
Agency District Representative



Halloween raffles being held

Halloween is just around the corner and the Warm Springs Tribal Employment Services department is already getting anxious about it.

The department is sponsoring a raffle to raise money for Halloween costume prizes. The item to

be raffled this month is a Pendleton Blanket. Other items will be offered each month with the drawing to take at the end of the month.

Raffle tickets are available for \$1.00 each at the Employment Service's office.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Spilyay Tymoo welcomes articles and letters from its readers. All letters, preferably 300 words or less, must include the author's signature and address. Thank you letters and poetry will be published at the editor's discretion.

All letters are the opinion of the author and do not reflect in any way the opinion of Spilyay Tymoo. Spilyay Tymoo reserves the right to edit all copy OR refuse publication of any material that may contain libelous statements.